

• COLORADO RIVER • AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XXI

NOVEMBER, 1954

NUMBER 11

Work On Lower Feeder Making Rapid Progress



This 108-inch pipe on the lower feeder near Temescal Canyon is so huge that a diesel jeep is used to carry the necessary materials to mortar the interior joints. Here, two workers from the A.B.C. Construction Company are sealing the joints.

Water Rate Adjustment Authorized By Directors

For the purpose of encouraging a better balanced use of water by its member cities and areas during the summer and winter seasons, the Board of Directors of the District has authorized a temporary adjustment in rates charged for natural and softened Colorado River water. The action was taken on recommendation of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer.

The Board's action provides that the rate for natural Colorado River water, effective December 1 of this year, be decreased from the present rate of \$10.00 per acre-foot to \$8.00, a reduction of \$2.00 per acre-foot, for the months from November to April, inclusive, and that the present rate of \$10.00 per acre-foot be maintained for the months from May to October, inclusive.

It is further provided that the rate for softened and filtered Colorado River water will be reduced from the present rate of \$20.00 per acre-foot to \$18.00 per acre-foot, a reduction of \$2.00 per acre-foot, for the months from November to April, inclusive, and that the rate is to be increased from \$20.00 per acre-foot to \$22.00 for the months from May to October, inclusive.

The new rates will be effective from the period December 1, 1954 to December 1, 1955. Studies of Colorado River water use in District cities and areas during the next year will determine whether the rates will be retained or returned to the present schedule.

Board Chairman Joseph Jensen stated that the principal purpose of lowering the District's water rates in the fall and winter months is to encourage District cities and areas to schedule their use of water for ground water replenishment during the winter season, and pump from these local supplies in the summer to cut down peak demands on the Colorado River.

(Continued on Page Two)

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Further Study Urged On Feather River Project

Recommendations that a thorough study be made of a coastal route for the proposed Feather River water line into Southern California were made in a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District on November 23. Such a route, it was stated, would bring Feather River water through Santa Barbara and Ventura counties instead of through the Tehachapi Mountains.

The Board resolution also urged state legislation, "including a constitutional amendment, if found necessary", to determine that firm and permanent rights may be established for the use in Southern California of water from Northern California rivers, including the Feather River.

The resolution stated: "Ultimately, in addition to water available from the Colorado River, it will be desirable to bring from areas of surplus in the northerly part of the State of California water for use in areas of deficiency in Southern California. On the basis of present information, the Feather River Project appears to offer the best means of accomplishing such transfer."

Board Chairman Joseph Jensen stated that District officials understood the determination of the northern "Counties of Origin" to protect their rights to water originating in their counties. At the same time, he said, Southern California can hardly be expected to assume the burden of paying half or more of the cost of the proposed Feather River Project until given firm and permanent rights to a specified quantity of water.

The Feather River Project which was authorized by the State Legislature in 1951 has been under study by State Engineer A. D. Edmonston and his staff for the past three years. The State Engineer's recommendation for the aqueduct route into Southern California calls for a line through the Tehachapi Mountains including a lift of 3500 feet.

Ventura Water Group Hears Chairman Jensen

Joseph Jensen, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the District, spoke before the Ventura County Water Development Committee at a dinner meeting in the Pierpont Inn in Ventura on November 18, regarding the Feather River Project.

He drew attention to the stand that has been taken by General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer urging careful consideration of a "coastal route" into Southern California that would directly serve Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

Such a route would bring water into these counties, which are already highly developed and prepared to pay a fair share of the project cost, Mr. Jensen pointed out.

New Director Named

Mr. Howard Boylan of Riverside has been appointed to the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors by the Western Municipal Water District, which voted to annex to the Metropolitan Water District recently.

Mr. Boylan's credentials have been inspected and approved by the District's legal staff and it is expected that Mr. Boylan will be sworn in at the next Board meeting.

Water Rate Adjustment

(Continued from Page One)

Aqueduct. This is essential, he pointed out, because during the summer of 1954 the District's Softening and Filtration Plant was operated far in excess of its rated capacity, and that even larger summer water demands are expected during the coming year.

In his report to the Board recommending the modification of rates, Mr. Diemer said that the change in rates will not change materially the revenues derived by the District but is expected to result in the deferral of huge investments in the construction of additional aqueduct facilities that otherwise would be needed to meet the peak summer water demands.

Mr. Diemer pointed out that the Metropolitan Water District wholesales Colorado River water to cities and areas that are in the District and does not engage in the sale and distribution of water to individual consumers. He stated that the District now includes 65 incorporated cities and large unincorporated areas in the five counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego.

For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed November 1954, covering District operations for October 1954.)

Colorado River — Lake Mead water level dropped 2.49 feet during October to a new low elevation of 1112.90 feet, for a usable storage of 13,489,000 acre-feet. This is a decrease of 250,000 acre-feet for the month or 4,349,000 acre-feet for the last twelve months. At Hoover Dam the discharge was at the rate of 12,800 cubic feet per second in October as compared with 15,400 cfs last month. Lake Havasu elevation varied from 448.0 feet to 448.8 feet with an average discharge at Parker Dam of 10,500 cfs as compared with 12,800 cfs in September.

Power and Pumping System — Pumping at Hayfield was continuous throughout the month at the rate of 600 cubic feet per second with three pumps operating. Peak delivery of power to the Edison Company was 115,500 kw. Water pumped at Hayfield for delivery to Lake Mathews and San Diego aqueduct amounted to 36,203.3 acre-feet.

Distribution System — At the Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant Colorado River water was softened from a natural hardness of 320 to 126 parts per million at an average rate of 165 cfs. The daily rate of flow varied from a minimum of 137 to a maximum of 206 cfs. The total volume of water treated was 10,055 acre-feet.

Construction — All work on the Garvey reservoir, the pipeline from Garvey reservoir to Southern Avenue, and the pipeline from Southern Avenue to Victoria Street was completed during October, which completes the presently authorized portion of the middle feeder. The contract on the middle cross-feeder and Inglewood lateral is 35 per cent complete. Cajalco tunnel clean-up was completed the last of October. On the pipeline from Cajalco tunnel to the City of Corona, 3260 feet of pipe was laid and on the pipeline through Corona, 2429 feet of pipe was laid. On the San Juan tunnel, 1023 feet of tunnel was excavated. On the pumping plant expansion the discharge valve foundation at Intake plant was completed and the valve installed. A butterfly valve was placed in position at Gene plant.

Purchasing — There were 361 purchase orders and 3 agreements issued during October in the amount of \$130,964.



Four new members of the District Board of Directors from the Central Basin Municipal Water District are sworn in by Ruth Thiers, Secretary to the General Counsel, while Chairman Joseph Jensen looks on. Left

to right are Directors Frank H. Wheelock, Victor H. York, Claire S. Thompson, Jr., Milo Dellmann, Chairman Jensen and Miss Thiers. The Central Basin area voted to annex to the District on September 21.

Central Basin Places Four On District Board

Four new members have been named to the District's Board of Directors, representing the Central Basin Municipal Water District, which voted to annex to the District in September.

This recent addition to the District has a population of nearly one million and an assessed valuation in excess of one billion dollars. The incorporated cities in the area are Bell, Huntington Park, Lakewood, Maywood, Lynwood, Montebello, Signal Hill, South Gate, Vernon and Whittier. A large number of unincorporated cities are also included in the District.

The new Directors are Mr. Milo Dellmann, Mr. Claire S. Thompson, Jr., Mr. Frank H. Wheelock and Mr. Victor H. York.

Mr. Dellmann was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1904, where he attended school. He came to Los Angeles in 1929 and built his own home in South Gate in 1936.

He became the head of his own business in 1944 and is actively engaged in numerous civic affairs. He was appointed to the South Gate City Planning Commission in the middle 1940's and became City Councilman in 1950. He was then appointed Public Works Commissioner of the City.

Director Dellmann also served as Mayor of South Gate during 1952 and 1953

and was re-elected to the City Council in 1954. Earlier he became engaged in the affairs of the Central Basin Water Association and was active in the formation of the Central Basin Municipal Water District, being elected to the Board of Directors of that District in 1952. He served on various committees relating to the annexation to the Metropolitan Water District and is presently serving as Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Central Basin Municipal Water District.

Mr. Thompson was born in Hynes, California in 1910 and attended Long Beach Polytechnic High School, graduating in 1927. He enrolled in the University of Southern California, College of Commerce, and graduated in 1931.

During World War II he served his country as a Lieutenant in the Navy. He is Past President of both the Bellflower Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Bellflower Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to his other civic activities, Director Thompson is currently President of the Rotary Club of Bellflower, Treasurer of the Community Presbyterian Church and Vice President of the First National Bank of Bellflower.

He is a partner in Thompson's, a retail furniture and hardware business at 16411 South Bellflower Boulevard.

Mr. Wheelock is a native of Somerset, Kentucky where he was born in 1900 but has claimed California as his home since 1930.

He attended McCallie Preparatory School in Chattanooga, Tennessee and then studied Chemical Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Since coming to California, Mr. Wheelock has been active in many civic affairs and is now a Director of the Vernon Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Executive Committee of the Central Basin Water Association, a Commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America and a member of St. John's Episcopal Church.

He is Plant Manager of Fibreboard Products, Inc., in Vernon.

Mr. York is a native son, having been born in Los Angeles in 1894, where he attended public schools. From 1919 to 1922 he was a contractor and driller of wells for the Humble Oil Company in Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas.

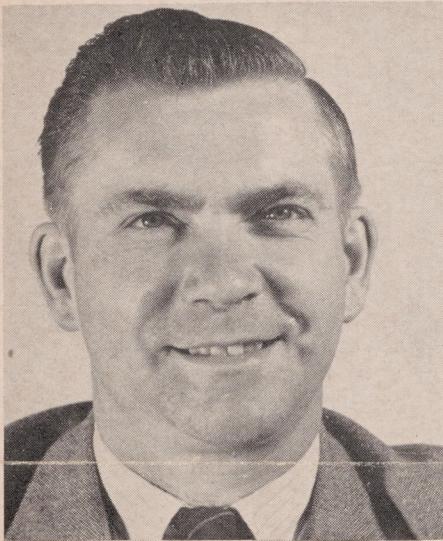
From 1922 until 1939 he was a contractor and driller of wells for the White Star and Rio Grande Oil Company (now the Richfield Oil Corporation).

He is the owner and President of the York Oil Company.

Director York has long been active in Salvation Army work. He is Chairman of the Board of the Salvation Army in Whittier and has been a board member of the Salvation Army in Los Angeles for 21 years.

He is also a member of the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission, Chairman of the Los Angeles County Inmate Welfare Fund Committee and is active in a number of other civic affairs.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



Marvin E. Stephens, Junior Engineer, has been elected President of the Board of Control of the Employees Association. Marvin started working for the District in June of 1946. He is married and has three sons.

* * *

Wendall Gerbitz, Utility Man at Hayfield Pumping Station, is back at work after a late vacation. He visited relatives and friends in Oklahoma and had a very enjoyable time.

* * *

Benjamin D. Fillmore, Senior Draftsman, is back at his drawing table after spending a "very enjoyable and profitable vacation" in Las Vegas.

* * *

Eddie Dussaman, Station Chief at Iron Mountain, also took a vacation recently but did not go on a trip. He came into Los Angeles for a couple of days but said the smog drove him back to the River.

* * *

Edward Hart, Utility Man, and his wife, are leaving Iron Mountain for Los Angeles, where Ed will attend chiropractic school on the G. I. Bill.

* * *

Belle Cawley, Utility Clerk in the Accounting Department, is back at her desk after recovering from two broken wrists which she received in a fall.

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Two former Chief Electrical Engineers were recent visitors to the District offices. J. M. Gaylord and R. M. Peabody both dropped in to say hello to their old friends and associates.

* * *

Georgianna Joseph, Junior Clerk, made a flying trip to Syracuse, New York, over Thanksgiving to attend a family get-together. She left Wednesday evening and returned Sunday, traveling almost 6000 miles.

In a recent election held by the Board of Control of the Employees Association, Marvin E. Stephens, Junior Engineer in the Los Angeles office, was elected President, and Harry T. Swango, System Operator at Gene, became Secretary-Treasurer.

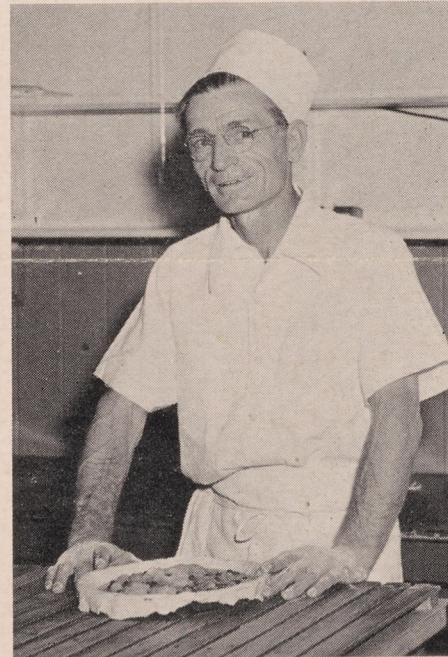
Each of the five Employee Groups has two representatives on the Board of Control. Group I is represented by Marvin Stephens and Rudy Fernandez, Junior Draftsman. Harold Church, Chief of Party on Survey, and Ray Powell, Senior Inspector, are the delegates from Group II.

Glenn Mayhew, Headhouse Operator, and James Harold Cline, Utility Man, represent Group III; Robert Sanborn, Assistant Station Chief, and Vincent Preiss, Maintenance Mechanic, Group IV; and Walter Smith, Foreman at Gene and Intake, and Harry Swango are from Group V.

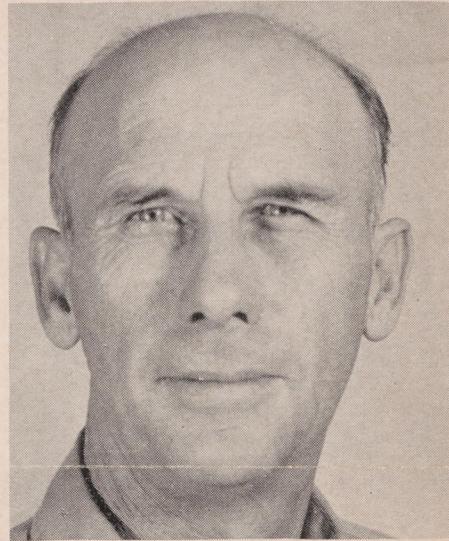
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Theodore Shill, Utility Man at Gene, passed out cigars on November 14 when Mrs. Shill gave birth to a husky 5 pound 12 ounce baby boy. The new arrival has been named Theodore, Jr., and, according to Ted, Sr., is the finest baby in the world.

* * *



Leroy Price, Cook at Gene Camp, who has prepared many fine meals for District employees, is being congratulated by his many friends on his recent marriage to Mary Schwanbeck, who is the Postmaster at Crossroads. The couple honeymooned in Colorado.



Harry T. Swango, System Operator, is the new Secretary of the Board of Control of the Employees Association. Harry began working for the District in September of 1933. He is married and has a grown son and daughter.

* * *

Many friends of the former Marleah Mosier, now Mrs. Edward Coy, Accounts Payable Clerk, gathered at the home of Anita Trudeau, Senior Bookkeeper, on November 22 to attend a shower for her following her marriage on November 6.

Hostesses for the shower were Anita Trudeau, Edith Mallery, Accountant, and Irene Anderson, General Clerk. Marleah and her husband honeymooned in Salt Lake City and Las Vegas.

* * *

Paul Winn, Senior Engineer, and Ray Floch, Engineer, who have been working on Construction Design out of the Los Angeles office, are now engaged in inspection duties in connection with the installation of the new pumping units on the Aqueduct.

* * *

John L. Seright, one-time "aqueducter" would like to hear from his old friends in the District. John first went to work on the "Colorado River Project" in June of 1927. He left the District in 1935 to go to work for the Shell Oil Company in Ventura where he is now Supervisor of the Coastal Division Surveying and Drafting Department.

His wife, the former Ann Brahem, and his father, Frank, now deceased, also worked for the District. John's address is 97 North Santa Rosa Street, Ventura, California.

* * *

Fannie Mae Fink, Supervising Secretary, enjoyed her vacation in Kingman, Arizona. She says that she really had a wonderful time.